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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Selma Baptist Association

WITH THE

Hopewell Church, Lowndes County, Alabama.

1894.

B. F. ELLIS, Moderator, Orrville, Ala.
J. E. BARNES, Secretary, Selma, Ala.
M. H. Traylor, Treasurer, Benton, Ala.

Selma Printing Company.

Next session to be held with Centre Ridge Church, Dallas County, Ala., Tuesday before the *third* Sunday in August, 1895.

PREACHERS.

Introductory Sermon, by *W. J. Elliott.*

Missionary Sermon, by *A. J. Dickinson.*

COMMITTEES TO REPORT.

On State Missions—W. J. Elliott, D. B. Edwards, J. W. Bailey.

On Home Missions—I. A. White, Lewis Johnson, T. M. Johnson.

On Foreign Missions—J. M. Fortune, R. B. Hardy, M. H. Traylor.

On Sunday Schools—Geo. W. Coker, J. E. Dunaway, W. M. Blackwelder.

On Temperance—A. D. Lawhon, J. C. Yates, T. S. Hagard.

On Education—A. J. Dickinson, J. B. Ellis, J. L. Hinson.

On Ministerial Education—H. S. D. Mallory, P. W. Johnson, J. P. Melton.

On Literature—J. E. Barnes, W. C. Stewart, Paul Carson.

On Woman's Work—D. B. Edwards, G. M. Bender, W. H. Small.

On Orphans' Home—B. P. Moseley, Alfred Edwards, Miles Hardy.

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

1. The Selma Baptist Association convened in its twelfth annual session with Hopewell Church, Lowndes County, August 14th, 1894.

2. The Introductory Sermon was preached by I. A. White from passages found in 2 Cor. 5:10, Rev. 14:12, Acts 17:31.

3. The Association was then called to order by Moderator B. F. Ellis.

4. On motion a committee on enrollment was appointed, consisting of D. B. Edwards and M. H Traylor, who reported as follows:

5. Ash Creek, J. K. Bradley, L. B. Bradley; Benton, *W. H. May; Bethany, *A. Edwards, *E. Lyon, D. G. Lyon, *J. C. Fortune, *F. B. Walker, J. M. Fortune; Ruhama, W. H. Small. W. Quarles, *Allen Davis, *J. E. Long. (See below at Selma.) Centre Ridge, J. C. Yates, *R. W. Watson, R. M. Burton; Mt. Gilead, Jas. Bryant, W. E. Mealing, *W. S. Walker, M. H. Traylor, A. D. Lawhon, W. J. Elliott; Hopewell, J. J. Hagood, Geo. W. Coker, O. A. Coleman, H. S. Day, W. N. Ray.; Macedonia, C. E. Bruner. G. W. Bender, *T. E. Perkins, *J. W. Gaston; New Bethel, T. S. Hagood. J. Strickland, Wm. Palmer; Orrville, B. F. Ellis, R. B. Hare, Geo. W. Burt, I. A. White; Pleasant Hill, *P. Hamilton, J. W. Bailey, *T. E. Williams, Nat Rudolph; Providence, *L. W. Moseley, H. L. Dudley, Frank Averett. See above for Ruhama Church. Selma, A. J. Dickinson, J. E. Barnes, *H. S. D. Mallory, J. J. Babcock; Shiloh, *P. W. Johnson, *D. B. Edwards, Jr., D. B. Edwards, Sr., *R. D. Stone; Sister Springs. A. J. Day, Jas. Hooper; Town Creek, J. F. Ellis, R. B. Hardy, Josiah Walker, Bird Whatley, R. D. Stewart.

6. The following permanent officers were elected, to-wit: Moderator, B. F. Ellis; Secretary, J. E. Barnes; Treasurer, M. Traylor.

7. W. J. Elliott, L. W. Moseley, and Geo. W. Coker were appointed a committee on program for this session.

8. Application for membership in the Association was made by New Bethel Baptist Church of Braggs upon letter from the Alabama (B.) Association. The church was

*Absent.

represented by T. S. Hagood, J. H. Strickland and Wm. Palmer. An application for membership in the Association was also made by Macedonia Baptist Church of Macedonia. This church has been recently organized. This church was represented by C. E. Bennet, G. M. Bender, T. E. Perkins and J W. Gaston.

On motion these applications were received, and the Moderator, in behalf of the Association, extended to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

9. Association adjourned for a recess of one hour and a half.

10. Benediction by J. W. Elliott.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

11. The Association re-assembled promptly, and after singing was led in prayer by A. J. Dickinson.

12. Visitors were received as follows: Geo. B. Eager, representing the State Board of Missions and the Alabama Baptist; S. J. Ansley, the Birmingham Associaciation; W. M. Harris, the Sunday School Board.

13. A. J. Dickinson read the following report on State Missions:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Missions believe a brief retrospect of the work done by the State Board under the direction of our Convention, will be useful and instructive.

The commencement of organized state mission work in Alabama by the Baptists dates back about nineteen years. Previous to that time our State Mission work was unorganized and was feeble and inefficient. We had no State Board, no evangelists or missionaries no colportuers, and no general or effective system of contributions to that work. We had then no state paper or other recognized organ, and our State Convention was composed of a number of ministers and a very few laymen, who met annually and discussed the affairs of our Baptist colleges in Alabama, but did, and could do, very little real work.

What mission work the Baptists of Alabama did, was done in an irregular and unsystematic manner, and mainly through the Associations and individual efforts.

During these nineteen years there has been organized and brought up to its present efficient standard our State Mission work.

During the past nine years over $70.000 have been collected and expended in State Mission work in Alabama through our board, and there are now in the employ of the board forty-five missionaries,

including eleven missionary colporteurs, consecrated men of God, carrying the glad tidings of salvation unto every part of our State.

Having no State organ nineteen years ago, we now have the Alabama Baptist, a paper worthy of the patronage of the great Baptist host of the State, a paper that has been one of the most efficient human causes of the development of the missionary spirit in Alabama.

Our State Convention has grown into a well organized and disciplined body of representative Baptists, made up of brethren sent fresh each year from the churches to direct and carry out our missionary enterprises and foster our denominational schools under its control.

The development of the mission spirit, the building up of weak churches in important centers, the establishment of new churches, the organization of Sunday schools, the bringing together of our people in united action, are among the chief works of these past nineteen years, and no man can tell the unnumbered hosts that shall be finally gathered in the heavenly fold as the result of this work.

Shall this good work, this work commanded by our Lord, so necessary to the spread of the gospel, so all-important in its reflex action on our own individual Christian growth, be continued? The answer must rest with the individual Baptists of Alabama.

H. S. D. MALLORY, Chairman.

The following amendments to the report were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Apportionment be instructed to apportion to the church $1,200 for missions, $300.00 for Ministerial Education, $200 for Colportage Fund.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to visit the Alabama Association and request them to appoint a committee to unite with them in petitioning the State Board of Missions to put a colporteur to work in the territory covered by these two associations.

13. After a discussion of the report by A. J. Dickinson, Geo. B. Eager and S. P. Lawhon, it was adopted as amended.

14. The Report on Home Missions was presented by J. M. Fortune, as follows:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home Missions report:

During the last Conventional year the Home Missions Board increased its work, but contrary to the Board's anticipations, there was not a corresponding increase in contributions. The whole sum of cash contributions from May 1, 1893, to May 2, 1894, being only $73,320.92; of which sum Alabama contributed the small amount of $3,753.75. Of this sum $522.02 was for the centennial fund, leaving $3,231.71 as the entire sum contributed by the 105,444 white Baptists of Alabama to the actual missionary work of the board. The result is the board reported to the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention an indebtedness of about $6,500.

Two faithful and honored members of the board passed to their final reward during the last conventional year. These members were

Brethren John D. Stewart, for eleven years the honored President of the Board, and Marion C. Kiser.

Brother F. C. McConnell, the Assistant Corresponding Secretary has resigned to return to the pastorate.

The board had, last conventional year, in its employ 381 missionaries. These missionaries delivered 34,024 sermons and addresses, and baptized 4,470 converts, and distributed 1,159 Bibles and Testaments and 390,750 tracts.

Our Home and Field, a monthly periodical, the organ of the board and medium for communicating missionary information, is published by the board, and should be read by all our people.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE, Chairman.

The report was adopted after discussion by J. M. Fortune, I. A. White and Geo. B. Eager.

15. The following committees were appointed to report during this session of the Association :

ON FINANCE—M. Traylor, J. W. Bailey, G. W. Burt.

ON NOMINATIONS—A. D. Lawhon, H. L. Dudley, J. J. Babcock.

TIME AND PLACE—Jas. Bryant, R. B. Hare, J. C. Yates.

ON APPORTIONMENT—D. B. Edwards, Sr., George W. Coker, R. D. Stewart.

STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES—J. M. Fortune, W. H. Mealing, L. W. Moseley.

16. On motion the letters from the churches were referred to the Committee on State of Religion in the Churches, instead of being read before the Association.

17. Adjourned to meet Wednesday, August 15, at 9 a. m.

18. Benediction by Geo. B. Eager.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

19. The Association met promptly at 9 o'clock. The devotional exercises were conducted by S. J. Ansley.

20. The minutes of previous day's session were read and adopted.

21. I. A. White read the following report on Ministerial Education:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

'Tis education forms the common mind.
Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined.

At the present day ministers are largely public educators—formers of the common mind. Under God there is no more powerful agency for bending twigs than the ministry. No teachers stand higher, none others have more pupils, exercise more authority, nor incur greater responsibility. For ministers are teachers of Christianity, and this implies that they, having received it in heart, must be capable of mastering it in thought and thoroughly mastering the thoughts of others. To aid them in this two-fold conquest our present system of ministerial education was organized. The system is simple enough, but the results of its application are complex and immeasurable.

But we deem it unnecessary to make further argument in this report touching this agency and its work, for our intelligent appreciation of the same is shown by our deeds. While we have in no wise neglected other enterprises fostered by us as a demonination, yet if there is one interest to which this Association is specially committed it is Ministerial Education.

According to statistics for 1893, no Baptist Association in the state has given so much for this work as the Selma. We gave to this interest last year, on an average nearly fifty cents per member. This showing is cheering, but instead of being satisfied with it, and complacently waiting for others to overtake us, let our liberality in this direction be but the pledge and promise of yet greater things.

Since our last meeting two State Conventions have been held, one at Greenville and another recently at Marion. At the former, the Board of Ministerial Education was discontinued and the work and books, and a debt of $700 were turned over to the State Board of Missions. At the recent convention in Marion, this Board reported that they had aided sixteen students at Howard College, and one at the Seminary, during the past session, and had closed their books after eight months with a debt of only $200 against this department of the work.

There was paid into the Treasury for this department during the same time $1,892.56. At Greenville the State Board of Missions was authorized to employ if necessary an Educational Secretary to canvass the State in the interest of Ministerial Education, and all the interests of our educational institutions.

We had nineteen ministerial students in Howard College last session, against twenty-five the year before, two at high school, and five at the Seminary.

Resolved 1, That we "pray the Lord of the harvest that he send forth laborers into his harvest."

Resolved 2, That we seek for and urge those young men whom God has called to take a thorough course at Howard College, and that all those who can possibly do so take the Seminary course in part at least.

Resolved 3, That we will sustain these institutions and work which we have committed to them with our prayers, our patronage and our generous contributions.

Respectfully submitted, I. A. White, Chairman.

After a discussion of the report by I. A. White, A. J Dickinson and Geo. B. Eager, it was adopted.

22. The Missionary Sermon was preached at 11 by W. J. Elliott, from Neh. 4:6, after which a collection was taken for missions, which amounted to $10.66 cash.

23. Adjourned for a recess of one hour and a half.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

24. The Association convened promptly at the appointed time, and after singing was led in prayer by Geo. B. Eager.

25. J. W. Bailey presented the following report on Education:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The subject of Education should command the earnest attention of all. It is the training of the mind to grapple with the great problems of life. It is a fact well known that the ignorant cannot cope with the educated.

The great need of our people to-day is Christian education, that which is obtained under the instruction of consecrated Christian teachers. We therefore call special attention to our denominational institutions located at Marion and East Lake. These schools are doing a grand and noble work. Our young people at these schools are not only having their minds trained, but their spiritual condition is also taken largely into consideration.

We are gratified to see that our people are becoming daily more interested in this the greatest and noblest work of life, next to our God, the education of our children.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Bailey,
For the Committee.

The report was adopted, after discussion by A. J. Dickinson, W. M. Harris, W. J. Elliott, Geo. B. Eager.

26. The following report on Orphans' Home was presented by J. L. Hinson:

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report of the Baptist Orphans' Home at Evergreen.

1. The treasury is practically empty.

2. It requires about $200 a month to pay current expenses. These expenses are absolutely necessary and can only be kept up by frequent contributions from the different churches.

3. The ladies have procured almost enough money to purchase a cooking range, before the full benefit of this can be realized it will be necessary to erect a dining room and kitchen.

4. The second payment, $1,666.66, with interest on two payments for one year will be due January 1, 1895.

We sincerely hope that every Baptist Church in the state of Alabama will realize at once the great responsibility that rests upon them to raise sufficient funds to meet the above demand, also the importance of sending in their contributions during the month of December or before.

5. The expense of procuring fuel is considerable, and we would recommend that a horse and wagon be furnished for general purposes The horse could be judiciously used by the boys in making a little crop, expenses be lessened, economy and industry taught and instilled in the boys.

It would be economy to build a school room over the dining room when built.

We recommend that all money, etc., be sent to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, Ala..

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. Hinson.

Resolved That Committee on Apportionment be instructed to apportion $300 to the churches for this fund.

After a discussion of the report by J. L. Hinson, A. J. Dickinson, W. M. Harris and J. A. White, it was adopted as amended. A collection was taken in the meantime which amounted to $19.24 cash and $27.95 subscribed, a list of the subscribers with the amounts being forwarded to the Superintendent of the Home, J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, Alabama.

27. The following report on Literature was presented by A. J. Dickinson:

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Literature would report:

1. That The Alabama Baptist now owned and edited by J. G. Harris and W. B. Crumpton was never more thoroughly in hearty accord with Baptist principles, practice and enterprises than to-day. It is edited with ability and is becoming an ever increasing source of Baptist education and development. The proprietors hope so to increase the circulation as to warrant the employment of an editor to give all of his time to the important work of augmenting the power of the paper, by elevating its literary quality and the value and quantity of matter. Every Baptist should permit his name the privilege of its weekly visit.

2. Our Sunday School Literature is second to none in the land and should be in all of our schools. Either that of the Board in Nashville or of the American Publication Society can be had from the Mission Rooms in Montgomery.

3. We recommend the Foreign Mission Journal and the Home Field published by the Board at Richmond and Atlanta as very profitable helps to the cultivation of an intelligent missionary spirit.

4. Any denominational or religious books which may be needed can be had from the Mission Rooms in Montgomery. By writing to the Secretary, W. B. Crumpton, the best book on any subject can be had at reasonable rates.

5. We recommend to the favorable consideration of our Sunday Schools the importance of libraries for the use of our people. A very good one may be had from our Mission Rooms for a small sum. You can know of no way in which money can be more wisely expended.

A. J. DICKINSON.
For Committee.

Discussed by W. M. Harris, Geo. B. Eager, I. A. White. Adopted.

28. Adjourned to meet Thursday, 9 a. m., August 16.

29. Benediction by W. M. Harris.

30. A. J. Dickinson preached at night from Eph. 2:4-7.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

31. The Convention convened promptly at 9 o'clock, and the devotional exercises were conducted by A. D Lawhon.

32. M. H. Traylor read the Report on Finance, which appears on last page of Minutes.

33. Report on Time and Place was read by Jas. Bryant, as follows:

Your Committee recommend Tuesday before the third Sunday in August, 1895, as the time, and Center Ridge, Carlowville, as the place.

Adopted.

34. D. B. Edwards presented the following report on Apportionment:

Report on Apportionment Selma Association 1894.

	Missions	Ministerial Education.	Colportage.	Orphanage.	
Ash Creek	15 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	30 00
Benton	20 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	35 00
Bethany	30 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	50 00
Centre Ridge	50 00	15 00	5 00	10 00	80 00
Mt. Gilead	50 00	15 00	10 00	15 00	90 00
Hopewell	50 00	20 00	10 00	15 00	95 00
Orrville	50 00	25 00	20 00	20 00	115 00
Pleasant Hill	70 00	20 00	10 00	10 00	110 00
Providence	75 00	25 00	10 00	15 00	125 00
Selma	700 00	150 00	100 00	150 00	1100 00
Sister Springs	5 00	5 00	3 00	3 00	16 00
Shiloh	50 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	70 00
Town Greek	80 00	20 00	10 00	15 00	125 00
Macedonia	5 00	5 00	3 00	3 00	16 00
New Bethel	10 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	25 00
Ruhama	5 00	5 00	3 00	3 00	16 00

These amounts if possible to be raised regularly during the year, but we would emphasize the importance of sending up the whole amounts for Ministerial Education and for the Orphanage, by the first of January.

D. B. EDWARDS,
Chairman Committee.

35. J. M. Fortune read the report on State of Religion in the Churches, as follows:

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

Fifteen churches report Sunday schools, and that interest in most of them is good. One church makes no report of Sunday school. Five churches report prayer meetings. Eleven churches do not report prayer meetings. Eleven churches report 82 baptisms, an increase of 19 baptisms over the number reported last year. Centre Ridge and Shiloh churches are without a pastor.

About $1,840 have been contributed for strictly beneficent purposes, and do not include contributions for the benevolent work of the churches within their own borders.

Most of the churches report the spiritual condition good.

Upon the whole, your committee believe the spiritual condition of the churches is improving.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. FORTUNE, Chairman,

Adopted.

36. The following report on Nominations was read by A. D. Lawhon:

We, your Committee recommend that the Executive Board be retained, to-wit: H. S. D. Mallory, B. F. Ellis, Lewis Johnson, M. H. Traylor and J. W. Bailey.

TO PREACH NEXT YEAR.

Introductory Sermon.—W. J. Elliott.
Missionary Sermon.—A. J. Dickinson.
Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—J. E. Barnes, Alternate, B. F. Ellis.
Delegate to State Convention—E. Lyon, J. P. Melton, W. D. S. Morgan, P. Hamilton, Lewis Johnson, Law Lamar, D. B. Edwards Sr., W. C. Stewart, Geo. W. Coker, W. F. Moseley.

Repectfully submitted. A. D. LAWHON.

37. The Treasurer's report was rendered as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. F. Ellis, Treasurer, in account with Selma Association.

1893. Dr.

August 9.—To amt. for missions from Finance Committee....	$36 97
9.—To amt. for minutes from Finance Committee.....	20 70
Total	$57 67

Dr.

August 10.—By voucher No. 1, W. B. Crumpton.....	$36 97
10.—By voucher No. 2, J. E. Barnes, Cl'k, for minutes..	20 70
Total.....	$57 67

Respectfully submitted,
J. F. ELLIS.
Treasurer Selma Association.

Adopted, after discussion by Geo. W. Coker, A. D Lawhon and J. M. Fortune.

38. M. H. Traylor read the report on Temperance, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is something to be practised as well as talked about. Taking a review of the past we can see the good that can be accomplished by putting temperance into practice. In this report we mean the generally accepted signification of abstaining from the use of intoxicating liquors. In talking about temperance we should be careful not to make an assertion that is beyond reason or proof. In this temperance cause we want a platform large enough for more than one man to stand on.

Respectfully submitted,
M. H. TRAYLOR, Chairman.

The following amendment was offered to the report:

Resolved, That we as an Association, recognize the magnitude of the cause of Temperance, and will, as ministers and churches comprising this body do all in our power to inculcate the glorious doctrine of Temperance and suppress intoxicating liquors from our land.

Adopted, after discussion by M. H. Traylor, I. A. White, Geo. W. Coker, Geo. B. Eager and J. M. Fortune.

39. I. A. White presented the following report on Woman's Work:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Woman was first in the transgression. It is proper that she should be first in obedience and loving service. The hand that was first stretched out against God, should be readiest in turning the erring back to God. And so has it been through the ages. "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." "God sent his son, born of a woman." "A sword did pierce through her own soul that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed."

This is not a new work in which our Christian women are engaged. The women of Galilee followed our Lord and lovingly ministered to him of their substance. Paul wrote "Help those women who labored with me in the gospel."

The Woman's Missionary Union of Alabama is the culmination of much earnest thought and prayer over the part of our godly women. They aim at the enrollment of every Baptist woman in the State for the support of the various enterprises fostered by us as a denomination. To further this end, a central commitee was created some five years ago and located at Birmingham, having Mrs. T. A. Hamilton as President and Mrs. I. C. Brown as Secretary. Vice Presidents have been appointed for the various Associations, through whom the local societies are to communicate with the central committee.

Mrs. Mattie Sutton, who has served this Association in this capacity in the past, tendered her resignation at the last session of the Woman's Missionary Union, and her sister, Miss Zadie Ellis has been appointed to the vacancy.

We present here no statistics of the grand work being done through this agency, but refer you to the very full and clear report of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union printed in the minutes of the State Convention. Respectfully submitted,

I. A. WHITE, Chairman,

Discussed by I. A. White and W. J. Elliott. Adopted.

40. On motion, the Treasurer was instructed to pay the Secretary of the Association ten dollars ($10.00) for services rendered.

41. On motion the Secretary was instructed to print in the minutes the rules of Decorum, and Constitution of the Association.

42. W. J. Elliott offered the following resolution which was adopted by a rising vote.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be returned to this church and community for the unbounded hospitality extended to us during this meeting.

43. The Moderator announced the committees to report at the next session of the Association. (See inside cover.)

44. W. M. Harris preached from Revelations 8:16,17

45. Association then adjourned.

RECORD OF THE SELMA ASSOCIATION.

Organized in 1883 with 11 churches around Selma.

Year.	Place of Meeting	Moderator.	Clerk.	Treasurer.
1883	Shiloh. (organ.)	Ellis, B. F	Baber, E. F....	Edwards, H.W.
1884	Mt. Gilead.....	Baber E. F ...	Eskew, I. R....	Edwards, H.W.
1885	Center Ridge..	Baber E. F....	Traylor, M. H.	Mosely. J. B....
1886	Providence.	Baber E. F ..	Eskew. I. R....	Ellis, J. B.. ...
1887	Pleasant Hill...	Mallory, H.S.D	Eskew, I. R	Ellis, J. F.....
1888	Town Creek...	Lawhon, A. D.	McIver, J. M...	Ellis, J. F.....
1889	Orrville.	Lawhon, A. D.	McIver, J. M...	Ellis, J. F.....
1890	Shiloh	Mallory. H.S.D	Moseley, W. F.	Ellis, J. F.....
1891	Mt. Gilead.....	Mallory, H.S.D	Moseley, W. F.	Ellis, J. F.....
1892	Providence.....	Ellis, B. F.....	Moseley. W. F.	Ellis, J. F.....
1893	Bethany.....	Ellis, B. F.....	Barnes, J. E....	Ellis. J. F.....
1894	Hopewell	Ellis, B. F.....	Barnes, J. E....	Traylor, M. H.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The year just closed has presented unusual problems for solution. Whatever affects the prosperity of a community or nation must necessarily affect our churches and our Foreign Mission Board in their work.

Depending upon the voluntary contributions of the people for the means to do their work, they are the first to feel the effect of a shrinkage in values and diminution of income. The financial depression of the past year, however it may be accounted for, produced a vast amount of distress and taxed the resources of benevolence to the utmost. In the largest cities of the country great numbers have been dependent upon charity much of the time, and very unusual efforts have been made by generous hearted people to relieve their distress. Practical benevolence has never, probably, been more open handed. Nor has it been only by gifts of money but by personal service that this work has been carried on. Some of the difficulties we have had to contend with has been the wild despotism of strikes, the strange dogmatism of political aspirants, the revolutionary utterances of leaders, the unsettled relations of capital and labor and the lingering lassitude of legislation, these have greatly hindered us in our work, both at home and abroad. The appeals sent out by the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board for the means necessary to liquidate the

debts of the Board and to carry on the work is simply piteous! It is not only quite impossible to do an aggressive work and extend the cause into new places, but it seems to be a burning question whether the ground occupied can be held, whether the churches already built can be supplied with preachers. During the past year the Foreign Mission Board sent out twelve new missionaries, and appointed seven more to go as soon as the way is opened, but the answer of the churches in furnishing the means necessary to their support has hardly justified that faith.

It is comparatively easy to appoint and send out men and women of high character and attainments into new portions of the country to lay foundations and work for the salvation of souls. But unless those appointed be given the necessary funds to erect, equip and in some measure sustain them during their early stages of growth, very little can be accomplished. Everywhere our churches are hampered for lack of funds imperatively demanded to enable them to fulfill their obligations.

Yet the picture has another side. In nearly all of our foreign fields there has been considerable progress in one or another direction.

In China we have thirteen organized churches with a membership of 1,077 and 122 baptisms during the past year. In Africa we have five organized churches with a membership of 166 and 24 baptisms. In Italy we have seventeen organized churches with a membership of 372, and 38 baptisms. In Brazil we have eleven churches with a membership of 405 and 159 baptisms. In Mexico we have thirty-seven organized churches, 1,163 members, baptised 277. In Japan we have one church with a membership of 31. Totals, churches 84, membership 8,328, baptisms 629. On the whole there is much cause for devout thankfulness to God and abundant ground for encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Elliott, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of The Selma Baptist Association. It shall meet annually at such time and place as the body may determine.

Art. 2. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union. Each church shall be entitled to five delegates, and for every additional fifty above the first hundred and fifty members, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; that all ministers of the Gospel who are pastors of a church or churches in this Association, be recognized as members of this Association without reference to the above representation. [This article appears as amended.]

Art. 3. The delegates when convened shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the election of a Moderator, Clerk, and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, and shall continue in office until their successors are chosen. The Moderator, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall have power to call a meeting at any time and place, which meeting shall, when convened have all the power of a regular annual meeting.

Art. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act

as advisory counsel, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. It nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown all churches that depart from the principles of the compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principle business shall be to promote the glory of God by extending his Kingdom of Grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel at home and abroad, and other means in accordance with the Gospel ; to encourage the cause of education, and especially of ministerial education ; to cultivate union and fellowship among the churches, and especially with those united in this Association.

ART. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union on sending up their delegates to any meeting with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

ART. 6. This Association shall annually elect five brethren as an Executive Board, who shall transact all business left unfinished by the Association, subject to the ratification of the Association ; perform such other duties as may be required of them, all of which they shall report to the next session of the Association.

ART. 7. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communication, specifying the names of delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, contributed for benevolent purposes, statistics of the Sabbath school, and all other information which the churches may deem of importance.

ART. 8. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all funds thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over, through the Committee on Finance, to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and disbursements.

ART. 9. This Association shall furnish the churches with minutes of every session ; the expenses of printing and distributing the minutes to be paid from funds contributed for that purpose.

ART. 10. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same, and have failed ; nor of any difficulties between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew for individuals, and have not been able to adjust them ; then the Association may take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of he Clerk of the Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 12. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 13. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular session of the Association by a concurring voice of a majority of the members present ; provided, such alteration or amendment shall have been presented at the previous annual session of the Association.

BY-LAWS.

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from their members a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold office until the next ones are appointed.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and, on appearance of a quorum. shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum may speak on the points of order in preference to the other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal one member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye and those of contrary opinion shall say no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative on the question shall rise from their seats, and afterward those in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote unless the house be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question provided he call some other member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, minute the proceedings of the body and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, acccount for and pay out all moneys belonging to this body, according to the instructions of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Associatiou may direct.

DECORUM IN DEBATE.

10. When any member is about to speak, or deliver any matter to the Association he shall rise from his seat, and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid personalities.

11. If any member in speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order: in which case, the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without any debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is to speak.

13. No member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted

to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reasons, excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lay on the table for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged ; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form : " Shall the main question be now put ? " It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present ; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

23. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SELMA ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Howard College.	S. B. T. Seminary.	Orphans' Home	Colportage Fund	Minutes and Clerk's Fee.	Church Expenses.	Church Buildings.	Value Church Property.
Ash Creek	7 49	1 75	1 25	2 00	.....	....	1 00	.....	50	26 00	.....	3 00
Benton	4 30	6 30	...	.....	...	....	.....	....	1 00	127 85	.....	5 00
Bethany	8 95	2 05	3 48	3 70	..	.....	5 00	1 50	1 50	.....	.....	.....
Center Ridge	5 82	...	.....	.....	....	....	.....	.....	1 50	33 65	.....	30 00
Mt. Gilead	37 40	11 03	16 89	15 00	.....	.	1 45	9 86	2 00	207 00	.....	25 00
Hopewell	2 55	.....	1 05	1 00	.....	.....	.....	....	1 50	109 75	.....	12 00
Macedonia	1 50	70 00	1 25	....		....	.....	.....	75	.....	.....	.....
New Bethel	1 62	.....	1 50	.....	....	....	3 00	....	50	.....	.....	.....
Orrville	28 00	24 95	30 00	68 26	25 00	25 00	20 00	3 00	2 00	340 00	30 00	32 50
Pleasant Hill	11 77	1 44	1 11	.....	.....	....	14 93	90	1 50	222 50	.....	20 00
Providence	5 00	2 50	12 50	21 26	.....	.....	20 00	.....	3 00	414 00	.. ...	25 00
Selma	5 65	.....	122 80	25 00	....	.....	40 00	....	5 00	29 70	350 00	230 00
Shiloh	6 20	56	71	12 35	.....	.....	.....	28	2 00	1 00	5 00	10 00
Sister Springs	5 88	3 12	98	.....	.....	...	.....	... .	75	.....	. .	8 00
Town Creek	14 75	6 41	15 00	12 61	....	.....	12 03	3 33	2 70	269 95	....	10 00
Ruhama	1 15	25	25 00	.....	.....	....	25	.....	50	.....	....	4 25
Total	700 38	120 50	208 00	150 03	25 00	25 00	112 66	18 56	24 70	4.731 20	380 00	404 75

NOTE—Including $10.00 collected at the Association, Minutes and Clerk's Fee amounts to $34.70, including $10.66, collected after Missionery sermon for Foreign Missions, this amounted to $218.72. Including $19.74, collected for Orphans' Home at Association, this amounts to $132.40.

SECRETARY.

STATISTICS OF SELMA ASSOCIATION, 1894.

CHURCH.	County.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's P. O.	No. Old Ministers.	No. Lic'd Minist's.	Membership last reported.	Increase by				D'cr'se by			Present Memb'sp.	Sabbath. Preaching	Report Prayer meeting.	Reports Revival.
								Bptisms	Letter.	Statement.	Restoration	Letter.	Exclusion	Deaths.				
Ash Creek	Lowndes	J. J. Hagood	L. B. Bradley	Gordonsville	..	..	9	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	11	4th	no	no
Benton	"	J. E. Barnes	W. M. May	Benton	..	..	9	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	7	4th	no	no
Bethany	"	J. M Fortune	J. C. Fortune.	Pleasa't Hill	..	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	Every 3d Sun	no	no
Centre Ridge	Dallas	No Pastor	R. F. Rowell	Carlowville	..	..	31	6	1	..	..	2	..	1	39	.....	ev Sun.	yes
Mt. Gilead	Lowndes	W. J. Elliott	M. Traylor	Benton	..	..	33	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	46	3dSnn&Sat bef'e	yes	yes
Hopewell	"	J. J. Hagood	W. N. Ray	Mt. Willing.	..	..	64	4	2	..	..	2	3	..	65	1st	no	no
Macedonia	"	J. J. Pipkin	O. P. Woodruff	Braggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	3d	no	yes
New Bethel	"	J. J. Hagood	J.R.Strickland	Braggs	..	..	36	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	3d	no	yes
Orrville	Dallas	I. A. White	G. W. Burt	Orrville	1	1	44	1	2	..	..	1	..	2	44	1st & 4th	yes	yes
Pleasant Hill	"	W.M.Bl'kwelder	H.N.Crumpt'n	Pleasa't Hill	..	..	71	5	..	..	..	2	..	1	73	4th	yes	yes
Providence	"	I. A. White	T. W. Berry	Tasso	..	..	63	1	4	..	..	1	..	..	67	3d & 4th	no	yes
Ruhama	Lowndes	J. J. Hagood	J. R. Long	Farmersville	..	..	4	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	9	2d	no	yes
Selma	Dallas	A. J. Dickinson	C.C. Cleveland	Selma	2	..	388	25	57	2	3	21	7	4	443	1. 2, 3, 4, 5.	yes	yes
Shiloh	"	No Pastor	P. W. Johnson	Sardis	..	..	69	..	..	..	..	8	7	2	52	4th	yes	no
Sister Springs	"	J. J. Pipkin.	James Hooper	Dallaston	..	..	20	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	22	1st	no	yes
Town Creek	"	J. J. Pipkin	R. D. Stewart.	Soapstone	1	..	51	1	1	..	2	7	1	2	45	2 4. 5.	yes	yes

STATISTICS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETIES

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.												WOMEN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.						
						Contributions.									Contributions.			
Churches.	Superintend't.	Post Office.	Officers & Teach'rs.	Pupils on Roll.	No. Baptisms.	Missions.	General Fund.	Orphans' Home.	Sundries.	[illegible] terial Education,		President.	Post Office.	No. Members.	Missions.	Orphans' Home.	Church Improvement.	Sundries.
Ash Creek..	.....	.....	...	...	..	$.....	$.....	$.....	$1 20	$..		.....	.....	..	$.....	$.....	$.....	$.....
Benton.....	E. C. Martin...	Benton.....	4	22	.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		Mrs. E. J. Hardy .	Benton	4	5 55	.....	.....	.....
Bethany.....	A. Edwards....	Colliren	4	23	..	.....	.....	12 00	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Center Ridge	R. F. Rowell...	Carlowvill ..	6	33	6	.....	.....	.....	4 91	.....		Miss Mamie Yates	Carlowville. ..	18	4 00	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Gilead..	W. E. Mealing.	Benton	6	28	..	.....	.....	11 20	.....	.....		Mrs. L. A. Edwards	Benton.	9	.....	5 00	.....	.....
Hopewell ...	G. M. Coker ...	Mt. Willing .	4	25	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Macedonia..	.....	.....	5	52	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Bethel.	J. R. Strickland.	Braggs	5	25	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Orrville.....	J. E. Dunaway..	Orrville.....	6	35	..	10 00	15 34	5 00	.....	.....		Mrs. B. F. Ellis...	Orrville.....	14	.....	.....	132 50	.....
Pleasant Hill	W. R. Hardy...	Pleasant Hill	11	60	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		Mrs. W. R. Hardy.	Pleasant Hill..	.	15 20	16 22	.....	80
Providence .	Lewis Johnson.	Orrville.....	5	25	1	15 00	10 00	.....	.....	.....		Mrs. Mary Day...	Tasso.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ruhama	.....	.....	...	...	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Selma.....	Law Lamar....	Selma.....	37	198	6	13 12	96 00	.....	.....	.....		Mrs. B. F. Bagley.	Selma.....	40	.....	.....	350 00	.....
Shiloh.....	P. M. Johnson..	Sardis	2	20	..	3 20	2 00	.....	3 50	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sister Spgs..	W. D. S. Morgan.	Benton	6	15	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Town Creek.	J. F. Ellis.....	Polk	10	26	1	... ..	.....	.....	91 43	.....		Mrs. W. C. Stewart.	Soapstone	6	.....	.....	.....	19 20
			112	597	21	$41 32	$123 34	$28 20	$31 04					91	$24 75	$21 22	$482 50	$20 50

NOTE.—This table is very incomplete, because of the failure of the churches to send in full statistics of schools, churches and societies. Statistics in several instances had to be taken from last year's table.

SECRETARY.